



THE Outlook

Nov. 8, 2005

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Vicenza Auto Skills Center best in Army

Story and photo
By Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

For the second year in a row, the Vicenza Auto Skills Center has been awarded the Army Recreation Award for Outstanding Recreation Program Auto Skills in the medium size category at the Army-wide level.

The award was presented two weeks ago during the National Recreation and Parks Association conference held in Reno, Nev.

"The competition is based by region," said Charlie DeCelle, Vicenza Auto Skills Center manager. "There are 107 auto skills centers in the U. S. Army, and we compete [with them based] by size."

The Caserma Ederle facility entered the 2005 Installation Management Agency-Europe level competition winning top honors.

After entering the contest at the IMA-E level, the winners get submitted and compete against the winners of all the IMA regions, explained DeCelle.

DeCelle is one of three people that make up the center's staff. The other two being Larry Douglas and Howard Overacker.

The first time they received this award they thought that one of the judge's deciding factors was that the shop is Automotive Service Excellence Blue Seal certified.

This year, DeCelle still believes in the importance of this certification, but also highlights the strength of the staff's effort.

"I am really proud of my team, and this is a team effort. Larry [Douglas] and Howard [Overacker] are equal parts of the three-men team here," he said.

"It's a team effort, no one can do it all by himself. I am very proud of the work they do and the way they take care of Soldiers and Soldiers dependents, civilians and all the



From left to right: The Vicenza Auto Skills Center staff work on a vehicle engine at the center. The center is an Automotive Service Excellence Blue Seal certified shop, which was awarded the 2005 Army Recreation Award for Outstanding Recreation Program Auto Skills (medium size) at the Army level.

community members here."

Both, Douglas and Overacker also agree on what helped them attain this achievement.

"We have a quality team that works well together," said Overacker. "That's what it takes to be a winner."

"It is easy for us to make sacrifices and go out of our way to help our patrons when we see the sacrifices that are made on a daily basis by the Soldiers and family members of this command," said Douglas.

"They deserve nothing but the best, and we are proud to be serving the very best," he added.

But other winning points have also been the maintenance of good

equipment available at the center and the progressive upgrade, especially focused on the diagnostic area.

"This is a continuous process of development and maintenance.

"We maintain what we have, but we also upgrade it, and if we notice that we are missing something, subjected to the availability of funds, we get out and try to buy it," explained DeCelle.

In addition to offering high-quality equipment and professional help, the automotive center also focuses on being active in the community on Caserma Ederle.

"We have a classroom and a conference room here, and both the

Vicenza High School students and the Central Texas College students come here," explained DeCelle.

"It is also important that we go out and engage the rest of the community, because cars scare people sometimes. They are afraid because they don't know. The way around that is for us to get out and engage the community, teach the Family Readiness Groups classes, teach the Scouts groups or any other groups that have an interest," DeCelle said.

To keep up the good work, the VASC will be housing a Technology Training where an instructor from the states will teach auto skills centers'

staff coming from several locations.

"We are going to have people from all over Europe, including Aviano, Naples, and Camp Darby. We will close the shop for that, but it is an important part of staying at the top," DeCelle said.

The training is scheduled from Nov. 14 to 18. Except that week, the Vicenza Auto Skills Center is open Tuesdays through Fridays from noon to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Basic fee to use the facility and the equipment is \$4 an hour. Other fees depend on the type of service.

For more information about the center and classes call 634-7014.

Smoke detectors

Time to change your batteries

USAG Vicenza Fire Department
Public Service Announcement

Now that we have survived another Trick or Treat season and been rewarded with another hour of sleep, reward yourself and your family with a little piece of mind.

In setting clocks back one hour it is time again to change the batteries in smoke detectors too.

Dead and dying batteries will activate continuously for no apparent reason. The only way to prevent this from happening is to replace your batteries now before the detector activates.

Don't wait, do it today or you may be startled in the middle of the night by the sound of a screaming smoke detector.

Help the detector help you and change the batteries today.

If you have an emergency call the Caserma Ederle Fire Department at 634-8911 on base or 0444-71-8911 off base.

If you have a question call 634-7092 on base, or 0444-71-7092 off base.

Your fire department is here to assist you.



Gate One construction to begin

Capt. DerekENZ
Provost Marshal Office

The following traffic changes will begin in the week of Nov. 13.

Gate One (Aldo Moro) Caserma Ederle outbound (exit) lane will be closed due to construction for approximately three weeks. Outbound traffic will be directed to use both Gate Two (Chapel Gate) on a 24-hour basis and Gate Five (Health Clinic Gate) between the hours of 4:30-6:30 p.m. Gate One inbound vehicle traffic will not be affected. Gate Four Bravo (Airborne Gate) will close and Gate Four (adjacent new barracks located on Olson Ave) will open for inbound commercial truck, vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Upon completion of construction on the outbound lane of Gate One, the gate will reopen for normal outbound traffic.

Construction will then begin on Gate One's inbound lane and is expected to take approximately three to four weeks.

While construction on the inbound lane for Gate One is underway, inbound traffic will be redirected through Gate Four, (vehicle and commercial truck traffic) and a re-opened Gate Four Bravo (Airborne Gate).

The provost marshal encourages all vehicle operators to expect delays and remain patient during this period of installation improvement and to plan accordingly.

Remember: Safe driving is everyone's responsibility.

Soldier remembers fellow warrior

“What do you think, Sir? You grew up in a military family, right? I just don’t know about putting my kids through this.”

As a new platoon leader, this conversation was my first introduction to Staff Sgt. John Doles: a leader, a Soldier, a father, a friend, and a hero.

Doles was a man of values; a man who always put his Soldiers and his family first; the kind of man this world desperately needs yet will sorely miss.

His death on Sept. 30, 2005, is a tragedy to all; but his life will forever remain the standard for what a Soldier is truly made of, as exemplified by his leadership while I was fortunate enough to serve with him during our combat tour in Iraq.

From our very first missions, we knew that Doles was a cut above the other team leaders in the platoon. He joined the military later than most of his peers, and his maturity and wisdom shined. With his thick, southern drawl, we would listen to his crazy accounts of growing up in Oklahoma, patriotically joining the military, and graduating [Army] Ranger School before finally becoming a team leader.

When his squad leader, an experienced E-6, left the platoon, my platoon sergeant selected then-Sgt. Doles to replace him.

At the time, it was extremely rare for a buck-sergeant to lead a squad in combat in the 173d Airborne Brigade. Yet our platoon sergeant, with much more troop leadership experience than I’ll ever have, had full faith and confidence in Doles’ abilities.

For some reason, luck or leadership, third platoon always made our giant cache discoveries with Doles’ squad.

When led to a desolate farmhouse by an informant, the commander and I were ready to give up and head back to base. But his squad just kept digging around, finally uncovering 34 hand-grenades, which led to the discovery of hundreds of AK-47’s, plastic explosives, and machine guns. It was our company’s largest find.

A month later, we were on patrol with his squad and a local informant, and we unearthed another huge cache: five mortar tubes and literally hundreds of mortar rounds and explosives. After digging everything up and placing demolitions with the help of an Explosive Ordinance Disposal team, we all fled the area to a safe distance, hunkering behind the vehicles for cover. But as usual, Doles stayed out front with his video camera, coolly and calmly catching the “fireworks display” on film.

Even more than these discoveries, however, I

will never forget his calm leadership by example during a platoon mission.

During a cordon and search, we had isolated an entire block of around 20 houses in a city in Northern Iraq. Doles’ squad was the main effort, and, as usual, all chaos ensued once we began the late night searches.

One house in particular was quite stubborn, and as I moved to the scene I witnessed Doles’ bravery, leadership, and compassion all at the same time.

The man of the household, apparently drunk, wouldn’t open the door. As the squad began to force their way in, Doles was right there, providing steady supervision.

The door cracked open, and you could see the man reach for a weapon in his house. Doles jumped through the door, tackled the resident, and subdued him despite wild resistance while his men secured the AK-47. The scene inside the house was just as chaotic: three young children and their mother huddled in a corner, all crying and terrified to death.

Doles could have easily shot and killed this man defending his home. But instead, just as effectively but requiring much more courage, he put his own life on the line for the sake of his squad members and for the sake of an Iraqi man – a stranger – and his family, the likes of who Doles came to protect.

Doles would have done anything to protect his Soldiers, but he never abused the power or responsibility he had as an agent for the U. S. of America.

I’m sure Doles was just as heroic and probably more during his missions in Afghanistan, but I was only able to visit him once in country. I’ll never forget the last time I saw John Doles.

I was down in Kandahar, attending a memorial service in September for another fallen comrade. Out of nowhere, a big cowboy tackled me from behind. He knew times were dangerous, but he flashed his big smile and talked about the future. He was going to the Ranger Training Brigade, where he would have a lot more quality time with his family.

“John: Well done. We will never forget you.”

Doles isn’t a hero because he died for a worthy cause; he was a hero because of the life he lived.

Capt. Timothy M. Benedict
Executive Officer
Headquarters Company
CJTF-76

It takes time

The USAG Vicenza Chaplain’s Family Life Office, in partnership with deployed SETAF and 173d Airborne Brigade chaplains, is writing a series of devotional articles based on the best-selling book, “The Purpose-Driven Life,” by Pastor Rick Warren.

The intent of these articles is to offer deployed Soldiers and their family members a devotional meditation, which they can use for weekly discussion and to hopefully deepen their spiritual connection during the separation.

Chaplain (Maj.) Jim Sheil
Vicenza Community Catholic Pastor

From time to time most of us want things right *now* – we don’t want to wait. We see this reflected in how fast technology helps us get this done.

We have instant messaging, instant transactions on the Internet, computer games, faster ways of travel, instantaneous transmission of information. Getting things done fast is fun, and we are used to it.

We would like the same thing to happen in “real life.” As we grow we eagerly look forward to getting our driver’s license, getting out of the house, getting the mission accomplished so we get back home.

It seems our focus increasingly is on a different time and place from where we are *now*. Yet, *now* is the only reality. *Now* is where things happen. *Now* is where we grow, because *now* is where we are. *Now* always is. The future never is because when the future gets here, it is *now*.

To a great extent the future depends on the *now* – how we live and move *now*. Our *now* has consequences for our future.

How we live in our *now*, what choices we make, what we do or don’t do has a great influence on what opportunities we will face in our future.

Now is also the only place we encounter God, who comes to us in our realities, not our fantasies. Our *now* is

both the consequence of what has happened in our past and the revelation of God – the really real.

When we are serious about encountering God, however God chooses to be God, we come to an awareness that God is with us, whatever is going on in our life.

We also come to know life as a process; a journey that has perhaps more than its share of rough spots.

When these rough spots hit us – and they will – they are a chance to grow in many ways.

One day some Soldiers were talking with an older Soldier who had been down the trail a few times and had a reputation for “knowing things.”

One of them said, “How did you get such ‘infinite wisdom’?”

He replied, “Infinite screw-ups.”

We need not be afraid of making mistakes as we move on our journey in our *now*. Mistakes are inevitable, a part of growing up; of attaining some sort of wisdom.

When we let our fear of making mistakes keep us from trying, we are avoiding our *now* and so avoiding our unique opportunity to contribute to good and to grow.

The important thing for us to remember is that in everything that happens in our life, every relationship we share, every situation we face, we are also encountering God.

This is both especially important and especially difficult in situations where our *now* involves war and fighting.

When we come to know our *now* as God revealing himself, we also come to sense we are part of someone much greater than what we are facing or what we are doing.

We find a sense of purpose that goes beyond what we can imagine.

This is true in the experiences of interminable boredom, as well as in those of fear and terror.

Now is real. God is real. *Now* is where we find God, but we have to work at it, and work hard.

Community

Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community.

If you have an issue that you wish to submit, visit the USAG Vicenza Web site at www.usag.vicenza.army.mil and click on the Community Action Council link. This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed. If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly. The command also reminds the community that CAC issues submitted containing vulgar, derogatory or inflammatory language will not be addressed.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$4 per hour, per child, for children ages 6 weeks old through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their location in the Davis Family Readiness Center.

As Wednesday, Nov. 23, is the day before the Thanksgiving holiday, the next Community Action Council meeting is Nov. 22, at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

Issue: *Not everyone can attend the monthly CAC meeting, especially since it’s during normal working hours. Although you have done a good job of posting the issues in The Outlook, someone hasn’t done a good job of keeping the issues updated on the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Web site.*

Someone may want to look up a past issue, and could probably search through the old issues of The Outlook to find it, but it would be much easier if they can do it online where issues are listed in order with issue titles.

The last issues posted on the Web site were from April 1, about six months ago.

Response from Plans, Analysis, Integration Office: The reason that we were behind on updating the site was due to some technical maintenance being performed on the system.

The contractor that maintains the site was switching the data over to a new server. The problem has been fixed and the Web site has now been updated. We do not expect to have any more problems with posting the issues in a timely manner.

Issue: *It appears our commissary is having delivery problems with milk. More often than not, the milk (1/2 gallon) on the shelves has an expiration date within one-two days of the current date. That is far too short shelf life expectancy.*

From a customer’s perspective, this is inexcusable and may be an indicator of inadequate inventory/supply management.

Response from DECA: The commissary receives milk deliveries on Tuesday and Thursday of each week from the plant in Denmark.

The temperature of each delivery vehicle is checked or monitored as well as the display units within the commissary. This ensures that all products are received and displayed at the proper storage temperatures.

We encourage patrons to follow the guidelines on milk handling and storage printed on each carton. Milk stored between 32-40 degrees F (0-5 degrees C) will significantly prolong its shelf life. On the date of receipt, products have a 10-day or longer shelf life on all products received. There are times when the commissary has an excess inventory of various milk items when a delivery arrives. Every effort is made to minimize these excess quantities.

However, shopping habits vary and demand of patrons change. These, plus other factors, make it difficult to accurately predict order quantities.

In order to stimulate movement of excess inventories we will begin to offer all milk, with less than five days shelf life remaining, at reduced prices.

Issue: *I have a question about civilians who work for the Army. I know they have ranks in their civilian MOS, but do they have ranks that equal military ranks? I been told other services do, but does the Army? I saw a chart showing Italy ranks against Soldier ranks. Is there a chart you can show the*

civilian workers against Soldiers?

Response from USAG Vicenza Human Resources: Normally, when a comparison is needed, the Geneva Convention chart is used. However, the question was not detailed enough to provide a specific answer. Since this was submitted anonymously, the writer can resubmit with a more detailed question in order for the CAC to provide an answer.

Issue: *It is now 9:15 a.m. and there are no paper towels and a half a roll of toilet paper in the women’s restroom in the Central Processing Facility. There are at least 15 women who work here, and countless customers who use the restrooms. We will surely run out of this half roll of toilet paper before 9:45, but the cleaning team doesn’t restock around 2 p.m.*

While we know you can’t fix the problem right now, this is a reoccurring problem and something needs to be done.

Response from Directorate of Public Works: The restrooms in question are used by both the CPF and Joe Dugan’s.

This issue has been caused by a change in the NAF contract for the operation of Joe Dugan’s, which no longer provides for resupply of the toilets. This issue is being worked with DMWR.

However, as an interim solution, we have taken the writer’s suggestion, and have stocked additional supplies at the CPF.

We will also post a sign in the restrooms explaining how to obtain supplies when they run out.

Soldier honored as ‘Warrior Citizen’

Story and photo
By Spc. Justin Nieto
SETAF Public Affairs

Soldiers in the Army Reserve, along with their National Guard counterparts, have always been in the unique and often stressful situation of juggling lives as a Soldier and civilian.

Recently, Lt. Gen. James Helmly, chief of the U.S. Army Reserve, created an award to honor the sacrifices of these Soldiers through the “Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award Program,” which provides each Reserve Soldier who served in Iraq or Afghanistan with a unique lapel pin, commemorative coin, an encased flag and a unique “Warrior-Citizen” flag.

One such Soldier recently honored with this award is Sgt. 1st Class Sayed Hessam, a Reserve Soldier with the SETAF Augmentees, who received the award during a presentation ceremony at the Munemori U.S. Army Reserve Center, Longare.

“This award is one-of-a-kind for me,” said Hessam during the ceremony. “I’ve got a bunch of plaques and such, but nothing like this.

“Nothing can replace the sacrifices made for year-long deployments,” said a smiling Hessam. “But this is a fine token of appreciation. This is something I can put in my home and be proud of. Thank you all very much.”

Present at the ceremony were



Reservists hold up a commemorative flag for "Warrior-Citizens." The flag is part of an awards package featuring an encased flag, a unique coin and lapel pins. The awards are for Reserve Soldiers who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

numerous members of the SETAF Aug and representatives from the 7th Army Reserve Command, like Command. Sgt. Maj. Michael Harris, the top enlisted man for the 7th ARCOM.

“I think awards are one of the best things that’s ever happened,” said Harris. “A lot of people don’t recognize the sacrifice of these troops; they leave everything, their jobs and family, to serve.”

Harris stressed the plight of Reserve Soldiers living in Europe, who often have no assurances their jobs will be their when they get back, if they work off post, and

are called to mobilize for deployment.

“They often have zero job protection,” said Harris. “They may very well lose everything, including their livelihoods.”

Col. Daniel Vargas, the 7th ARCOM chief of staff, echoed Harris’ comments with his own.

“No one can recognize what you lose personally with preparing to deploy,” said Vargas. “But this is to at least recognize that sacrifice.

“This is General Helmly’s way of saying every Soldier is important.”

Darby community pays final respects

By Chiara Mattiolo
Camp Darby Public Affairs

The Camp Darby community gathered together Oct. 28 at 2:30 p.m. in the Livorno Chapel to mourn the loss of Lia Morelli, lead supply technician with the Field Support Battalion-Livorno.

Morelli was born in Livorno Sept. 21, 1961. She started her career with the Department of the Army June 1, 1983, as a clerk typist for the Directorate of Public Works. Upon promotion she was then assigned to the War Reserve, now known as the Field Support Battalion-Livorno, where she worked for 20 years. She started out as a supply clerk and worked her way to the lead supply technician in March, 2003.

“Lia fought her battle against her incurable sickness with an

unimaginable strength. In spite of her physical weakness, she kept participating in dance competitions, her lifelong passion. Her temper, joy, and positiveness set an example for all of us,” said Massimo Carpina, support operations assistant officer, FSB-LI.

Her DPW colleagues remember Morelli through her courage.

“Thank you Lia for teaching me how to smile in spite of fear and sorrow,” said coworker Cristina Suardi “Your courage has been a message of love for all of us.”

“We will never forget your sweetness, your smile, and your availability, not to mention the courage you demonstrated in affording the terrible challenge life gave you,” said coworker Laura Nuti.

Morelli is survived by her daughter Alice, 17.

Creating a caring community

Maj. Gen. David T. Zabecki
Commander
SETAF Rear



Maj. Gen. David T. Zabecki

The Vicenza military community is a small world unto itself. We see the people we live and work with frequently – our neighbors are often our sports coaches, teachers, coworkers, friends or maybe even the MP who pulled you over for not coming to a complete stop. Many relationships on a small installation can overlap; sometimes in a positive way and sometimes in a way that isn’t as positive. It’s easy to forget that people are doing their jobs and we need to respect the fact that they are doing them right. In every circumstance we should treat others as we would like to be treated.

The days are growing shorter, the foggy and rainy season is coming and we’re at the beginning of the holiday rush. These added stresses can make us forget or overlook what is truly important. To remember that although we all experience stress and can be impatient at times, we are members of the same community.

The broad definition of community means a group of people living in the same locality and under the same government. This is true of our community. We all share similar rules and regulations, but the better definition of community is what we should strive for – a group who defines itself by sharing, participation and fellowship.

This means being a part of the solution and not the problem: Keep your yard clean and neat. Recycle properly to keep our broader community clean and to respect the laws of our host country. Keep the noise level down if you and your neighbors share a wall. Watch your children – it’s the responsibility of parents

and guardians to know where and what your children are doing. Watch your pets – remember the lease law. Your pet may not seem like a menace to you, but other people may not feel the same way.

If everyone took care of these issues, we would be capable neighbors and a functioning community, but in many ways we can aspire to be better. To achieve this we each need to do a little more, such as an offer to help out a neighbor if you see they can’t keep up with their yard. Or maybe strike an agreement with your neighbor to take turns going to the recycling bins. We could all drive more defensively, especially around bus loading and unloading time. To the many people in our community who do these things and more every day, I thank you.

As a community, we are interdependent on each other and that means it is sometimes necessary to ask for help and sometimes necessary to offer help. I challenge each of you to look for ways to make our community the best it can be. Maybe it’s as simple as thanking a neighbor who is putting an effort into making their yard look nice – and the block look better – or maybe it’s giving someone a compliment when you receive good service. The little things add up and they add up to a healthy and vibrant community.

Community Invited

Veterans Day Ceremony

Thursday from 11 a.m.-noon at the Caserma Ederle Chapel. Lunch and child care are provided.

The guest speaker will be U.S. Army Europe Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Gravens.

Call the chapel at 634-7519 for more information.



The Outlook

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The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity.

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High speed in so many ways

Brigade's support battalion keeps equipment working

Story and photos
By Spc. Jon Arguello
173d Abn Bde Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Few units in the U. S. Army are as diverse in their skill set as support battalions. The 173d Support Battalion (Airborne), 173d Airborne Brigade, is no exception, especially Bravo Company.

The company's best description would be general or miscellaneous support, but don't get the wrong impression. Bravo Company doesn't consist of Soldiers who have a lot of time, waiting around for things to do.

"They've done a great job," said 1st Sgt. Norman Van Winkle, of his Soldiers' performance during the first half of their deployment. "They are very dedicated, and they never shy away from missions."

The fact that they don't avoid the mission may not be surprising, but the vast range of support these Soldiers provide is.

The 64 Soldiers of Bravo Company "provide direct support to all units around Kandahar Airfield and throughout Regional Command – South."

What is direct support exactly? From air conditioning repair to night vision goggles to weapons repair, Bravo Company maintains all of it.

"Every shop has been a standout

performance," said Van Winkle, of Ft. Bragg, N.C. "Our C.E.M.A. [Communications, Electronics, Missiles and Armorer] platoon for instance took on the responsibility of maintaining and installing [electronic counter measures] on trucks. They had very little training and took it upon themselves to become subject matter experts. And it's because they know how important it is."

The C.E.M.A. platoon is responsible for repairing radios, missile systems, such as the Javelin and improved TOW systems, small arms weapons and other electronic devices.

"I couldn't have asked for a better group of Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth McCoy, from Birmingham, Al. "They do an outstanding job. A lot of the stuff is new to them and it has high visibility because it saves lives. The contribution of the entire platoon is really something."

Knowing that their jobs directly save lives is one of the reasons they work so hard, said Spc. Ernest Johnson, from Bridgeport, Conn.

"This is the best job in the Army. We're not out there killing bad guys, but we're doing a lot for the mission here and you can feel you're helping."

Since arriving in Afghanistan in March, the C.E.M.A. platoon has installed about 300 counter improvised explosive devices

electronic systems. Overall, they have completed more than 1,000 missions.

Another section from the platoon works on weapons. Sometimes the lack of qualified armorers increases the challenges.

"Most of the units submit jobs but don't have armorers, so they're not sure what's wrong with the weapon," said Staff Sgt. Alan Rojas, from Aiea, Hi. "So the first thing we do is take it apart and figure out what's wrong with it."

As challenging and demanding as the jobs the Soldiers of Bravo Company have, they all seem to look at the positive.

"It's good when we're at the [forward operating bases]," said Sgt. Demetrius Matthews, from Westover, Md. "You provide the support right there and 20 minutes later, that weapon is on a mission."

But the lifesavers who install the electronic measures, fix targeting acquisition systems and repair weapons, aren't the only hard working Soldiers in Bravo Company B also maintains and repair vehicles from wreckers to humvees.

The company dedicates one hard working mechanic to inspecting the damage and repair of vehicles.

"My goal is to get the vehicle or piece of equipment back on the road as soon as possible," said Staff Sgt. Yusef Davis, from Longbeach, Ca. "It's important, not just with vehicles but with every piece of equipment, especially equipment that provides whatever comfort to the guys on the line, like heaters or air conditioners."

The first six months of Bravo Company's deployment has been challenging to say the least. Along with their various responsibilities, they have a large and diverse group of customers, basically everyone in RC–South, including its mother unit, the 173d Abn Bde.

Their workload is heavy, repairing hundreds of vehicles battered and abused by the extremely rough Afghan terrain, maintaining electronics in a dusty, harsh climate and other jobs.

Even the operations sergeant, Sgt. Christy Mangual from Winnsboro, La., trained as a generator mechanic has several other duties from master driver



A communications equipment technician with Bravo Company, 173d Support Battalion (Airborne), installs an electronic improvised explosive device countermeasure on an armored humvee.



A CEMA Platoon Soldier drills a hole to run wiring for electronic countermeasures against improvised explosive devices on an armored humvee. The Communications, Electronics, Missiles and Armament Platoon has installed more than 300 of these countermeasure since their arrival in Afghanistan.

responsibilities to fixing Soldiers' pay problems. Still Bravo's Soldiers maintain a good attitude.

"I really enjoy training and teaching Soldiers," said Mangual. "This is a much better environment to train in because there are fewer distractions for the Soldiers. We basically spend all of our time actually doing our job."

Van Winkle hopes that the second six months will bring more time for the Soldiers to relax and enjoy more personal time.

"These Soldiers have been working very hard and staying on top of their game as far as knowledge of their profession. We're looking forward to a slower pace come for the next six months due to rain and snow. Hopefully they'll have a little more time to do the things they like to do."

Their commander acknowledges just how hard his Soldiers have worked and said their performance will be the same if not better throughout the next six months.

"It has been challenging and rewarding," said Capt. Daniel Bidetti. "From combat maneuver training to inventorying equipment before we left, to our workload now – it has been challenging. It's been rewarding. We've done very well supporting the brigade and RC–South. Our guys will continue to drive on and continue to be ready to support the brigade and other units."

As diverse as their jobs are, all of Bravo's Soldiers have a few things in common, selfless service and a great work ethic being the two most prevalent.



Purple Heart awarded

Spc. Nathan Williams, Able Company, 2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne) waits to receive the Purple Heart from SETAF Rear Commander Maj. Gen. David T. Zabecki Oct. 28, for his actions during the following mission in Afghanistan.

Able Co was conducting a mission in the border region between Nawbahar and Shamulzayi districts when Williams was wounded by shrapnel and Staff Sgt. Troy Ezernack was killed in an engagement with the enemy. The purpose of the Able Co operation was to gain contact with and destroy the Anti Coalition Militia personnel operating in the area. Additionally, the Taliban had recently conducted a series of attacks against the local police in the area, and this area was a known transit route for the Anti Coalition Militia.

The mission began with successfully clearing a sector of the target area in the Tangi River Valley. Subsequent intelligence gathered from locals and radio intercepts led the element to move from that valley to the Lura River Valley, where the intelligence suggested the presence of a number of Anti Coalition Militia, to include possible ACM leadership.

Able Co cordoned the village, and Afghan National Army soldiers entered the village to clear it of possible enemy. In the course of the clearance, an enemy-initiated explosion wounded both Ezernack and Williams. The medevac helicopters were called in immediately, and a special crew of pilots with the ability to fly without the aid of the moonlight or other ambient light, were dispatched to the scene. Although the surrounding area was not yet positively cleared of enemy presence, the helicopter landed as soon as it arrived to the site. Once the helicopters arrived, the medevac personnel on the aircraft took over medical treatment, and the helicopters flew to Forward Operating Base Lagman. (Provided by 2-503d Inf (Abn))

Pandemics, Avian Flu – What you should know

Col. Bradley N. Harper
Commander
U.S. Army Health Clinic Vicenza

Much has been heard and read in the media about Influenza this year. Health authorities give regular reports about the spread of Avian Flu H5N1. Reports of people buying and stockpiling Tamiflu are also circulating. What is the threat? What should I do now and in the event of a flu outbreak? Are we worrying over nothing, or is there a real threat?

Background: The worst pandemic in modern times was the Spanish Flu outbreak at the end of WWI.

A pandemic is an epidemic that spreads worldwide. This one started in Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kansas, among Soldiers preparing to deploy to Europe. Some 500,000 Americans died, and world wide the toll is estimated between 20-40 million people, at least half of whom were healthy young adults.

Pandemics seem to occur roughly every 30 years, all of them Influenza Type A. Other pandemics in the 20th century include the “Asian” and “Hong Kong” Flu.

The “Asian” Flu, 1957-58, caused 70,000 deaths in the states. In 1968-69, the “Hong Kong” Flu caused 34,000 deaths in the states and is still seen periodically, but due to current immunization practices and natural immunity of those who contracted it before, it is not felt to constitute a significant public health risk.

Pandemics occur when a familiar virus undergoes mutation or “antigenic shift” so that it is no longer as recognizable to the human immune

system. Or, a new virus, that was previously restricted to animals, becomes pathogenic, capable of causing disease in humans. This is the scenario that is now causing world health officials the greatest concern. The Spanish Flu was an avian, bird, flu that mutated to infect humans and, because our immune systems had never encountered it before, caused rapid and widespread infection.

So, the risk is real. We do know that people can become infected as there have been about 130 cases in southeast Asia with roughly 50 percent mortality. To date, every case was caused through close contact with infected fowl, and no cases of person to person transmission have been documented. That is the critical step necessary for a pandemic to occur.

The concern is that a person with a human flu could become infected with Avian Flu, and the two could exchange genetic information, thus a “Super Bug” could be born.

Avian Flu has been documented in both Turkey and Romania recently, restricted to fowl. Public health officials are doing their best to quarantine areas with cases and are destroying all infected flocks. Unfortunately, migrating birds can carry the virus, so no one expects central Europe to avoid the infection entirely.

Should a pandemic occur, the local, as well as the World Health Organization, would institute several coordinated efforts to restrict the spread of the disease. WHO defines the phases of a pandemic as follows:

Interpandemic period – Stage

between pandemics.
Phase 1 – No new influenza subtypes present.
Phase 2 – No new influenza subtypes present in humans, but a circulating animal virus with risk to humans is present.

Pandemic alert period is next.

Phase 3 – Human infections with a new sub-type but no human to human transmission. *We are currently in Phase 3.*

Phase 4 – Small clusters with limited human to human transmission, suggesting the virus is not adapting well to humans.

Phase 5 – Larger clusters but human to human spread is still localized, suggesting the virus is becoming better adapted, but not fully transmissible, and thus not a pandemic risk at that time.

Pandemic

Phase 6 – Increased and sustained transmission in the general public.

So while the risk is real, you can see that there are several steps yet before a pandemic would become reality. Should there be an outbreak of human Avian Flu, it is estimated that it would take about three months before an effective vaccine could be developed. We cannot make an effective vaccine now as we cannot predict how the virus might mutate in order to become infectious. The drug Tamiflu has been shown to have some effectiveness against the Avian Flu in animal models.

Steps are being made to allow other companies to manufacture Tamiflu besides the one which holds the patent, and large amounts could

become quickly available. Personal hoarding of the medication is not advised because of the need to save stockpiles to send to any area where the flu would first appear. Like a forest fire, if we can saturate an area where there is an outbreak with medication and restrict travel, we would buy time while vaccines were being developed and distributed.

The bottom line is that the risk is real but not immediate.

Pandemics do not suddenly appear everywhere at once. Like the forest fire, there is a spark, a spread, and a pattern that allows for control measures to have an effect.

In the meantime, we should all do what we can to maintain our health. Regular exercise stimulates the immune system and makes us more resistant to disease, as does enough sleep. Grandma was right about a lot of things, and exercise and proper sleep are still the best prevention, as well as washing your hands regularly.

While the current flu vaccine will most likely not protect you from the Avian flu per se, it does stimulate the immune system, and that is an exercise we could all do with from time to time.

There will be enough flu vaccine to immunize everyone this flu season, so come on by the clinic for your shot. Flu vaccinations are available during the following schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 1-3 p.m.

Flu shots are available to all members of the community that want to receive them and are medically eligible (are not allergic to the

components contained in the flu vaccine and who do not arrive to the clinic on vaccine day with a fever).

To get the flu shot:

Check in at the front desk. The clinic will have you perform the following on the day you receive the flu vaccine:

Fill out a DA 4700 – Medical record supplemental medical data screening sheet with specific information.

Sign the consent – After reviewing the vaccine information sheet for inactivated influenza vaccine.

Fill in the patient identification section with name, date of birth, and sponsor’s full social security number.

Sit in the waiting room until your name is called by the nursing staff.

After you receive the vaccine, you must remain in the lobby for 20 minutes for observation of possible allergic reaction.

Remember, the flu vaccine takes about two weeks to boost your immunity and it helps to decrease the severity of the signs and symptoms in case you are exposed to the flu virus. You have taken an excellent step to promote you and your family’s health. Continue to wash your hands with soap and water as often as you can, cough into your sleeve, and keep hand sanitizer in your pocket to keep your hands free of germs during this flu season to beat the bugs.

For further information on the flu and pandemics visit the following Web sites: www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/avian_faqs/en and www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/pandemics.htm

Soldiers remembered in honor of Native American History Month

Provided by the Equal Opportunity Office

Throughout history, native Americans have been among those Soldiers to be distinguished by receiving the United States’ highest military honor: the Medal of Honor. Given for military

heroism “above and beyond the call of duty,” these warriors exhibited extraordinary bravery in the face of the enemy and, in many cases, made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

These are the native Americans who received the Medal of Honor for their actions

during the Korean War:

Cpl. Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr. – Company E, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, U.S. Army.



Cpl. Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr.

On Nov. 5, 1950, near Chonghyon, Korea, from Cloud’s “position on the point of a ridge immediately in front of the company command post he was the first to detect the approach of the Chinese Communist forces and give the alarm as the enemy charged from a brush-covered area less than 100 feet from him. Springing up, he delivered devastating pointblank automatic rifle fire into the advancing enemy,” according to his citation.

Cloud maintained his position, refusing medical treatment, until he was fatally wounded. His heroic action prevented the enemy from overrunning his company’s position and gained time for evacuation of the wounded.

Capt. Raymond Harvey – Company C, 17th Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army.

On March 9, 1951, near the vicinity of Taemi-Dong, Korea, with “his company pinned down by a barrage of automatic weapons fire from numerous well-entrenched emplacements, imperiling accomplishment of its mission, Capt. Harvey braved a hail of fire and exploding grenades to advance to the first enemy machine



Capt. Raymond Harvey

gun nest, killing its crew with grenades,” according to his citation. Harvey continued facing a number of fortified hostile positions.

“Disregarding the hail of fire, he personally charged and neutralized a third emplacement... Though wounded he then turned to order the company forward, and, suffering agonizing pain, he continued to direct the reduction of the remaining hostile positions, refusing evacuation until assured that the mission would be accomplished.”

Pfc. Charles George – Company C, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, U.S. Army.

On Nov. 30, 1952, near Songnae-dong, Korea, Pfc. George “was a member of a raiding party committed to engage the enemy and capture a prisoner for interrogation,”

according to his citation. George’s group “was subjected to intense mortar and machine gun fire and suffered several casualties.” They continued and completed their mission, but George and two other Soldiers covered the withdrawal. As they were withdrawing, a grenade was thrown into their position and “with full knowledge of the consequences, unhesitatingly threw himself upon the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion.”



Pfc. Charles George

Events

A Native American Month display will be in the library throughout the month of November.

Nov. 17 at 9:30 a.m. the post theater will be showing Wind Talkers.

Dec. 2 at the South of the Alps Dining Facility at 11:15 a.m. there will be a luncheon to celebrate Native American Month.

For more information on these events call 634-7749.

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Exhibitions

In Padova, the 16th Contemporary Art Exhibition nd Market will be held Nov. 10-14 in the city’s fair grounds. Open Thursday-Friday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m., weekend from 10 a.m.-9 p.m., and Monday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Entrance fee is 8 euro.

In the Verona exhibition grounds the 34th Elettroexpo Exhibition and Market will be held this weekend. Find the latest in computer science, satellites, radios and electronic radiant energy instruments. Open Saturday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m and Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Entrance fee 8 euro.

Human chutes and ladders

Nov. 12-13, the town of Mirano will hold its annual human-scale *Gioco dell’Oca*, similar to the board game Chutes and Ladders, on the main square.

The whole province shows up to watch the six teams representing the six neighborhoods of the town fight it out in traditional costumes, climbing up ladders, jumping over geese, running through the 63 squares, over multiple obstacles.

The *Gioco dell’Oca* appeared for the first time in Italy during the Medici period (around 1580), but the oldest board game found dates back to 1640 and was made in Venice.

However, the game itself is older than that, as testimonials of similar forms of the Goose Game were found in Egyptian tombs and on Chinese prints. Then, it represented the concept of Good and Evil, the good being the goose and the evil, the obstacles.

The reason this game was so popular during the Medici period lies in its simplicity and the fact that it relies uniquely on dice, so whatever the age of the players, everyone had the same chance of winning (and losing) and everyone could take part.

The game on the main square is Nov. 13, but the city celebrates the goose all weekend with markets, street entertainment and music.

Tractor Parade

The town of Ponte di Barbarano will hold its 17th Palio Nov. 12-13.

Starting Nov. 12 at 8:30 p.m., four of the town’s districts will compete against each other in five different games, to include a skipping competition and a carry-an-egg race.

Nov. 13, at 2 p.m. there will be a parade of tractors from the four districts followed by a tug-of-war competition and the throwing of cornhusks.

At 5 p.m., the naming of the winner of the palio is followed by a firework display. At 7 p.m. food stands open serving bigoli, gnocchi, meat and baccala’ and, for the first year, stewed snails (or served with speck and spinach) will be on the menu.

There will also be a vegetable market open throughout the day. Ponte di Barbarano is located 21 kilometers from Vicenza.

The Fiat Topolino

The Automobile Museum *Luigi Bonfanti* in the town of Romano d’Ezzelino, province of Bassano, has over 40 Fiat 500 manufactured between 1936 to 1955 in different models and versions on show.

The exhibition is open daily from 10 a.m.-noon and 2:30-6:30 p.m. until March 3. Closed Mondays. Entrance fee is 6 Euro.

The Madmen’s Cage

The island of *San Servolo* in the Venetian lagoon, which once served as the province’s insane asylum, is now a center for culture and advanced studies, that sees more than 35,000 students from all over the world attend different courses every year.

This past August a group of artists were invited to live and work on the island to create works of art inspired by the theme of madness.

The outcome is the exhibit “*La Cheba dei Mati*,” The Madmen’s Cage, and among the contributing artists are Rory Macbeth, Lucy Harrison, Rebecca Agnes and Giovanni De Lazzari.

Open everyday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. until Dec. 4. Entrance is free.

Boiled meat festival

The town of *Isola della Scala*, in the province of Verona, celebrates its 5th Festival of Boiled Meat.

You’ll also find *risotto all’isolana*, *vino novello* and roasted chestnuts.

The heated food tent seats 2,000 people and is open everyday starting Nov. 11-20 from noon-2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.-midnight.

Medieval dinner

The owners of the *Castello di Bevilacqua*, province of Verona, will hold a medieval dinner Nov. 13.

The theme is “*A cena con Giulietta e Romeo*,” A dinner with Juliet and Romeo, and it will start at 8:30 p.m..

Cost per person is 35 euro, children ages 6-10 are 20 euro, and younger than 6 eat free.

Reservations for the event can be made by calling 0442-93655. You will have to confirm via fax at 0442 649-420 with your name and address.

If you have difficulties speaking Italian over the phone ask an Italian friend to help.

The castle is approximately 31 miles from Vicenza.

Ancient fair of Santa Lucia di Piave

The ancient fair of *Santa Lucia di Piave*, in the province of Treviso, was set up in 1998 with cultural, social and charitable aim. It takes form in a commemoration of the 14th century ancient fair of the town.

Nov. 12-13, the market of the period is reproduced and is populated with musicians, storytellers, animal merchants and the reality of days gone by. See vendors who skilfully prepare sausages, traditional cakes and sweets for the occasion.

Events start Nov. 12 at 9 a.m. when the medieval market opens; exhibitions that day include birds and animals that were used in the 14th century and a medieval art exhibit. At 8:30 p.m. will be a free theatre performance with Pino Costalunga.

Nov. 13 at 9 a.m. the medieval market reopens and visitors can watch performances throughout the day of jesters, musicians, acrobats, and duels between knights.

There will be an exhibition-market of goods typical of the time where you can find different textiles, plants, embroidery, purses and more. At 2 p.m. watch the historical parade with more than 180 participants dressed in period costumes. 6:30 p.m. is the closing ceremony.

Throughout the day Nov. 13, find money changers where you can change your euro for “ancient” Veneto coins to buy the local produce from dairymen, sausage makers and wine makers.

If the weather is bad, the events on Nov. 13 will take place on Nov. 20.

The town of Santa Lucia di Piave is 77 kilometers from Vicenza.

Now Showing

“R” Rated Movies

The AAFES Theater would like to remind the community that children younger than 17 can only be admitted with their parent or adult guardian for “R” rated movies. The parent/adult guardian must purchase admission for their child. Parent/adult guardian does not need to purchase admission for themselves, according to AAFES Exchange Operating procedures 14-2.

AAFES adheres to the following rating guidance:

G - General Audiences - All Ages Admitted

PG - Parental Guidance Suggested - Some material may not be suitable for children

PG-13 - Some material may be inappropriate for children younger than 13

R - Restricted - Younger than 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Caserma Ederle Theater

Nov. 8	Closed	
Nov. 9	The Skeleton Key (PG13)	7 p.m.
Nov. 10	Undiscovered (PG13)	7 p.m.
Nov. 11	March of the Penguins (G)	7 p.m.
Nov. 12	March of the Penguins (G)	2 p.m.
	40-year-old Virgin (R)	7 p.m.
Nov. 13	March of the Penguins (G)	2 p.m.
	40-year-old Virgin (R)	7 p.m.
Nov. 14	Closed	

Camp Darby Theater

Nov. 10	Four Brothers (R)	7 p.m.
Nov. 11	Just Like Heaven (PG-13)	6 p.m.
Nov. 12	Cry Wolf (PG13)	6 p.m.
Nov. 13	Roll Bounce (PG13)	2 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

THE 40-YEAR OLD VIRGIN - *Steve Carell, Catherine Keener.* 40-year-old Andy has done quite a few things in his life. He’s got a cushy job stamping invoices at an electronics superstore, a nice apartment with a proud collection of action figures and comic books, good friends, a nice attitude. But there’s just one little thing he hasn’t quite gotten around to doing yet—something most people have done by his age. Andy’s never, ever, ever had sex. His friends at the store consider it their duty to help, but nothing proves effective enough until he meets Trish, a 40-year-old mother of three. Andy’s friends are psyched by the possibility that “it” may finally happen...until they hear that Andy and Trish have begun their relationship based on a mutual no-sex policy.

ROLL BOUNCE - *Bow Wow, Chi McBride.* X and his friends, who rule their local rink, are shocked when their home base goes out of business. Heading over to the Sweetwater Roller Rink, they find their modest talents are, at first, no competition for their trick skaters and pretty girls who follow their every move.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.
Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.

Commissary Christmas candies ruined

By Kay Blakley
DeCA Europe Consumer Advocate

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Defense Commissary Agency Europe officials have the unfortunate duty to inform commissary shoppers that this year’s shipment of U.S. specialty Christmas candies sustained damage in transit, resulting in a reduced selection of gift-type chocolates available at commissaries throughout Europe.

Random sampling by military food inspectors revealed a number of chocolates had surface blemishes commonly referred to as “bloom.” Bloom results when the cocoa butter has separated and risen to the surface of the chocolate, giving it a dull or grayish-white appearance. This happens when the chocolate is subjected to either too humid or too warm storage conditions.

This is a quality issue negatively affecting the appearance, texture, and taste of chocolates. It is not a food safety issue – such chocolates can be consumed without harm.

Because of limited production cycles of specialty candies for the holiday season, options for replacing the damaged shipment are not available. All holiday candies determined by military food inspectors to be unaffected, are being shipped to commissaries for sale.

Commissary officials expect these items to be in excellent condition; however, customers are encouraged to return any chocolates failing to meet those expectations.

VHS Volleyball



Above: Vicenza High School Volleyball Player #2 spikes the ball against the outstretched arms of Livorno Player #8 while Travis Murphy gets ready to defend during the fourth period of the game played at the VHS gym Oct. 29. Vicenza and Livorno were two of the four teams that participated in the ASIL Men's Volleyball Conference: Aviano, Livorno, Vicenza and American School of Milan. During this match, Vicenza defeated Livorno 25-14; 25-20; 22-25 and 25-21.

VHS Boys finished their regular season play with three wins against Sigonella, Marymount of Rome and Livorno and four losses against Aviano, American School of Rome, Naples and American School of Milan.

Right: VHS Volleyball Player stretches out for the ball during the second period of their game versus Aviano during the ASIL Volleyball conference held at the Fitness Center Oct. 29. Vicenza also played the American School of Milan. The girls were defeated by both teams during the conference.

This past week both the VHS Volleyball teams, Boys and Girls, went to Germany to participate in the Med Championship (Boys) and the Europe Championship (Girls). (Photos by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)



Halloween Festivities



Above: The pumpkin carving contest is always one of the main events at the Camp Darby Halloween Fest. All participants get to take their wonderful creations home. (Photo by Chiara Mattiolo, Camp Darby Public Affairs)

Right: Nancy Coronado, age 12, wraps up her younger brother Brian, age 6, at the Mummy Wrap station during the Goblin Gathering at Villaggio on Halloween. Along with the Mummy Wrap, there were stations for fortune telling, pumpkin bowling, pony rides and many other activities for children. (Photo by Kelli Covlin, Outlook Editor)